

Lesson 5

GOD'S DECREES AND THEIR EXECUTION



Although the Triune God has always existed (God is eternal), there came a point in time when everything else that exists had a beginning: God created all things (Creation). But the Bible teaches that before God created he planned everything; and the creation and everything that has happened since creation is the carrying out of God's plan. The word used for this plan is decree. If you think of God's creation as a house, think of his decree as the blueprint or plan for the house. And once you build the house, you take care of it. When God takes care of his creation, the word used is providence.

1. Use the terms **decree**, **creation**, and **providence** in the proper way to describe how God works.

The plan for a house is the _____ ;

actually building the house is _____ ;

taking care of it after building is _____ .

Everything God made (_____)
and how he guides his creation (_____)
follows exactly his eternal plan (_____).

Look up S.C. #8.

God executeth his _____ in the _____ of
_____ and _____ .

2. Look at S.C. #7.

a. How old is God's plan? _____

b. "According to the counsel of his will" means God made
up his own mind what to do.

Look up Isaiah 46:8-10.

1) Who declares the end from the beginning? _____

2) God's plan does not change. His counsel shall
_____ .

3) How much of God's purpose will be accomplished?

c. How much has God planned ("foreordained")? _____

d. Why has God planned everything? "for _____
_____ ."

1) Did God need to create the universe? _____

2) Did God need to create man? _____

3) Why then does man exist? (S.C. #1) _____



What do
YOU think?

3. God's plan includes our choices.

God's decrees include everything. Some people have said this makes people like puppets. They don't really think and choose; they have to do what God planned. But we are not puppets. In a marvelous way we cannot understand, God's plan includes our choices. So we make our own choices (many times bad choices), but at the same time we fulfill the plan of God. Consider these examples from the Bible:



a. Look up Acts 2:23.

1) Why was Jesus allowed to die? _____

2) Who put him on the cross? _____

3) Did these men do it because they had to since it was God's plan, or because they hated Jesus?

b. Were Adam and Eve forced to disobey God, or did they choose to disobey? _____

Yet their choice to disobey was part of his plan, and he had already planned to deliver many, many people from sin.

c. Look up Ephesians 1:4. When had God chosen those Christians? _____

d. Nebuchadnezzar was a great conqueror of ancient Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar thought his own power made him great, but God took away his power.

Look up Daniel 4:34, 35.

1) Compared to God, what are the inhabitants of the earth? _____

2) Where are two places God's plan (will) is done?

"He does according to his will among _____

_____ and _____."

3) Who can stop him ("stay his hand")?

e. How does it make you feel to know God has a plan that includes everything and that his plan will be carried out? _____

4. God carries out his plan through creation.
Look up S.C. #9.

a. With what did God make everything? _____

b. According to Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, what did God have to do to create something from nothing?

The catechism says he did it "by _____

_____."

c. According to Genesis 1:31, what did God think about his creation? _____



What do
YOU think?

d. How God created the world.

We do not know exactly how God created his world or exactly how long it took. Some think the six "days" of Genesis 1 represent six long periods. Others think it only took six 24-hour days. The important fact is that God created the world — it didn't just happen. People who do not believe in God have tried in different ways to explain how the world got here. Sometimes they have tried to make others think their ideas were more scientific than believing in creation. But this is not so. One who believes in God loves science because it is a study of God's world.



Think
about it



Explain why science and the Bible can go together.

What is one question you have about science and the Bible?



What do
YOU think?

5. Look up these verses and list what God has created.

a. Genesis 1:3 _____

b. Genesis 1:26, 27 _____

c. Psalm 102:25 _____

d. Isaiah 40:26 _____

e. Hebrews 1:13, 14 _____

6. What was that final creation of God? (Genesis 1:26, 27)

a. Who were the man and woman like? (Genesis 1:26)

b. Look up S.C. #10.

List the ways man and woman were in God's image:

"... in _____ , _____ ,

and _____ with _____

over the other creatures."

c. What did God tell man and woman to do? (Genesis 1:28)

Just as God ruled over the entire creation, including humans and angels, so human beings were to rule over one portion of his creation — the earth. Some day we will answer to God for how well we did the job he gave us.

d. You are a creation of God and no one else is just like you. List two things you like about the way God created you.

e. Write down one strength or gift or talent he has given you.



What do
YOU think?



Don't forget!

Date Completed _____

Parent's Initials _____